

North Hill Expansion on Target

By PAULA MAXWELL

The North Hill Clubhouse, long a fixture at the town-owned nine hole public golf course off Merry Avenue, will soon be demolished as work begins on a new 3,000 square foot clubhouse complete with a new pro shop and a 26 by 54 foot function facility with bar and seating for 100 people.

Recreation Director Gordon Cushing said construction is expected to begin in early November. Included in the plans

will be replacement of the adjacent cart barn.

Johnson Turf and Management agreed to replace the clubhouse and septic system at no cost to the town as part of a 10-year contract agreement approved by the town last year.

Plans call for construction of a one and a half story handicapped accessible structure with offices on the second floor and a member area on the first level. The new pro shop in the facility will be located close to

the first tee. A wrap around porch with a service window will highlight the facade. A full service kitchen will provide food for golf patrons and functions.

The club's contract requires a \$101,000 annual remuneration from Johnson Turf to the town.

The contract for construction of the clubhouse was awarded to East Coast Homes

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of Fall River, the same firm which handled the design plans.

The current clubhouse, an old cow barn which was converted back in the 1930's, is in a state of disrepair. In 1996, it

was determined that it would cost the town at least \$175,000 to bring the structure up to code so a decision was made to tear the present clubhouse down and build a new one.

The golf course was built on fertile land which used to be

part of the Merry dairy farm.

Cushing said, "We're really excited about this project. The town will be getting a first class facility. I hope members will be patient. The new clubhouse should be ready next spring."



Plans call for demolition of the present clubhouse at North Hill sometime in the next few weeks.

Photo by Paula Maxwell